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Senate Republican Issue Statement Following Senate Finance Committee Passage of Senate Bill 8

Governor endorsed election bill weakens ballot integrity

SANTA FE – Tonight, Senate Bill 8 cleared the Senate Finance Committee on a 6-5 vote with all Republicans and one Democrat voting against the measure. **Senator Bill Sharer** (District 1-San Juan), **Senator William Burt** (District 33-Otero, Eddy, and Lincoln), **Senator Crystal Diamond** (District 35-Doña Ana, Hidalgo, Luna, and Sierra), and **Senator Pat Woods** (District 8-Curry, Quay, and Union), the four Republicans on the committee, issued the following joint statement:

"Senate Bill 8 in its current form makes broad changes to elections in New Mexico by allowing felons to vote upon their release, creating a permanent absentee ballot list, and forcing the use of ballot harvesting boxes on our county clerks. Not only that, the Democrats are paying for it using funding intended for the Early Childhood Trust Fund. This bill may very well open the door to fraud and ballot harvesting at scales we have yet to see in this state. This is yet another instance of short sighted policy for political gain and we urge the body to reject this bill when it comes to the Senate Floor."

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